

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0114] with the following amended paragraph.

[0114] Polypeptides of the present invention comprising immunogenic or antigenic epitopes are at least 7 amino acids residues in length. “At least” means that a polypeptide of the present invention comprising an immunogenic or antigenic epitope may be 7 amino acid residues in length or any integer between 7 amino acids and the number of amino acid residues of the full length polypeptides of the invention. Preferred polypeptides comprising immunogenic or antigenic epitopes are at least 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, or 100 amino acid residues in length. However, it is pointed out that each and every integer between 7 and the number of amino acid residues of the full length polypeptide are included in the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0115] with the following amended paragraph.

[0115] The immunogenic and antigenic epitope-bearing fragments may be specified by either the number of contiguous amino acid residues, as described above, or further specified by N-terminal and C-terminal positions of these fragments on the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. Every combination of a N-terminal and C-terminal position that a fragment of, for example, at least 7 or at least 15 contiguous amino acid residues in length could occupy on the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 is included in the invention. Again, “at least 7 contiguous amino acid residues in length” means 7 amino acid residues in length or any integer between 7 amino acids and the number of amino acid residues of the full length polypeptide of the present invention. Specifically, each and every integer between 7 and the number of amino acid residues of the full length polypeptide are included in the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0307] with the following amended paragraph.

[0307] Another aspect of the present invention is to gene therapy methods for treating disorders, diseases and conditions. The gene therapy methods relate to the introduction of nucleic acid (DNA, RNA and antisense DNA or RNA) sequences into an animal to achieve expression of the stanniocalcin polypeptide of the present invention. This method requires a polynucleotide which codes for a stanniocalcin polypeptide operatively linked to a promoter and any other genetic elements necessary for the expression of the polypeptide by the target tissue.

Such gene therapy and delivery techniques are known in the art, see, for example, WO_90/11092, which is herein incorporated by reference.

Please replace paragraph [0536] with the following amended paragraph.

[0536] ***Rescue of the Library.*** A library of scFvs is constructed from the RNA of human PBLs as described in WO_92/01047. To rescue phage displaying antibody fragments, approximately 10^9 E. coli harbouring the phagemid are used to inoculate 50 ml of 2xTY containing 1% glucose and 100 ug/ml of ampicillin (2xTY-AMP-GLU) and grown to an O.D. of 0.8 with shaking. Five ml of this culture is used to inoculate 50 ml of 2xTY-AMP-GLU, 2×10^8 TU of delta gene 3 helper (M13 delta gene III, see WO_92/01047) are added and the culture incubated at 37 degree C for 45 minutes without shaking and then at 37 degree C for 45 minutes with shaking. The culture is centrifuged at 4000 r.p.m. for 10 min. and the pellet resuspended in 2 liters of 2xTY containing 100 ug/ml ampicillin and 50 ug/ml kanamycin and grown overnight. Phage are prepared as described in WO_92/01047.

Please replace paragraph [0539] with the following amended paragraph.

[0539] ***Characterization of Binders.*** Eluted phage from the 3rd and 4th rounds of selection are used to infect E. coli HB 2151 and soluble scFv is produced (Marks, et al., 1991) from single colonies for assay. ELISAs are performed with microtitre plates coated with either 10 pg/ml of the polypeptide of the present invention in 50 mM bicarbonate pH 9.6. Plasmids positive in ELISA are further characterized by PCR fingerprinting (see e.g., WO_92/01047) and then by sequencing.